Report of the

Mysore Tenancy Agricultural

Laws Law & Committee

97/23

INTRODUCTION

The Mysore Tenancy Agricultural Land Laws Committee was appointed by the Government of Mysore under their Order No. RD 30 TNC 57 dated the 10th May 1957 (Appendix I) with a view to examine the existing Tenancy and Agricultural Land Laws and to make suitable recommendations for comprehensive legislation in the matter. The order enumerates the following terms of reference:-

"The Committee shall examine the existing laws and practices in regard to the Land Tenancy in the several areas in the State and consistent with the recommendations of the Planning Commission suggest suitable measures for regulating land tenancies. It shall also examine whether it is feasible to have a common tenancy law in the new State of Mysore. Measures suggested towards this end shall cover, among others, the following matters:-

(a) Fixity of rent.

(b) Security of tenure.

(c) Right of resumption of land by land-lords for personal cultivation.

(d) Right of purchase by tenants and payment of compensation to landlords.

(e) Ceiling extent of land-holdings.

(f) Fixing the extent of basic or economic and family holdings and specifying the areas to which they apply.

(g) Prohibition of land ownership as a source of income by persons who are not themselves cultivators or by those who do not reside either in the village in which the land is situated or on the farm.

(h) Matters relating to the assumption and management or acquisition of lands by Government.

(i) Acquisition of land from persons who own the land in a village but who are neither agriculturists nor residents of the village.

(j) Restraint on alienation of land in favour of non-agriculturists."

2. In their Order, No. RD 30 TNC 57 dated the 5th July 1957, Government appointed Shri M. Ramappa, M.L.A., as an additional member of the Committee. The time limit of two months originally allowed to the Committee was extended by two months in Government Order No. RDC 30 TNC 57 dated 29th July 1957.

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PROCEDURE

3. The first meeting of the Committee was held on the 20th May 1957 and it was decided to issue a questionnaire and also to visit representative areas in all the districts with a view not only to ascertaining public opinion in regard to the several matters governed by the terms of reference but also to getting first hand information regarding the manner in which the tenancy legislation already in force in some of the areas was being implemented in practice. The questionnaire (Appendix II) was approved by the Committee on 22nd May 1957 and copies were got printed and distributed widely to the categories of persons and institutions mentioned in Appendix III. The questionnaire was also published in important newspapers. A press note was issued intimating that copies of the questionnaire can be got either at the taluk offices or from the office of the Committee. Five thousand replies to the questionnaire have been received.

4. We have visited all the districts of the State and heard representatives of various interests. We had also discussions with the local Revenue officers who are entrusted with the administration of tenancy law. The itinerary of the Committee is given in Appendix IV.

5. Before taking up detailed consideration of the terms of reference we propose to trace in brief the evolution of tenancy legislation in various States in India and also to indicate the position in each of the five areas of the new Mysore State at the time of appointment of the Committee. Chapter I is devoted to a brief account of the progress of tenancy legislation in several States. Chapter II deals with the laws and practices in regard to land tenancy in the several areas in this State. In Chapter III we have discussed the position in Mysore and the magnitude and nature of the tenancy problem with reference to available data. We have also indicated the basic objectives which have been kept in view in formulating our proposals. Chapters IV to VIII are devoted to detailed consideration of the several terms of reference,

either individually or in groups of allied subjects. We have tried to indicate in Chapter IX the factors which are in our opinion responsible for the ineffectiveness of the existing Tenancy laws in the various areas of the State and also to suggest the steps which could be taken to ensure that the benefit of the legislation really accrues to the tenant. Our recommendations on several minor points which have not been covered in the earlier chapters are brought together in the last chapter.